

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 IO-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01

SCCT-02 /146 W

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R 281245Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6888

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3627

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJ: PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST QADHAAFI PICKS UP

REF: CAIRO 3561

SUMMARY: MUSTAPHA AMIN'S ALLEGATION ON FRONT PAGE OF AKHBAR MAY 28 THAT QADHAAFI FINANCING ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS AGAINST EGYPTIANS REPRESENTS CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN LEVEL OF CAIRO MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM. END SUMMARY.

1. EDITORIALS IN ARABIC LANGUAGE PRESS MAY 27 DIFFERED IN TONE. AHRAM MERELY "REGRETTED" THE "CAMPAIGNS OF CONFUSION" LAUNCHED BY LIBYA. AKHBAR, HOWEVER, ATTACKED QADHAAFI BY NAME
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OBJECTING VEHEMENTLY TO HIS "EFFORTS TO WIN PERSONAL GLORY"

WHICH SHOWED HIS "LACK OF POLITICAL MATURITY".

2. AKHBAR MAY 28 FEATURES FRONT PAGE STORY BY MUSTAPHA AMIN HEADLINED "QADHAAFI ARRANGING NEW ASSASSINATIONS". ACCORDING TO AMIN, REPORTS FROM LIBYA SHOW THAT QADHAAFI IS ALLOCATING "FABULOUS SUMS" FOR ASSASSINATION OF CERTAIN EGYPTIANS AND FOR SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES. THE "CERTAIN PEOPLE" ARE PERSONALITIES WHO HAVE DARED TO CRITICIZE QADHAAFI WHO IS THE "HOLY DELIVERER OF EGYPTIAN PEOPLE FROM CIVILIZATION, FREEDOM AND THE RULE OF LAW".

3. SAME EDITION OF AKHBAR ALSO FEATURES EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH NIMAIRI, MAIN THRUST OF WHICH IS ATTACK ON QADHAAFI, WHOSE "CAPRICE" IS AT ROOT OF LIBYAN REGIME'S LACK OF CLEAR PRINCIPLES. COMMENTING ON NIMAIRI'S CHARGE THAT QADHAAFI IS TRYING TO DESTROY ARAB UNITY, AKHBAR EDITORIAL NOTES EGYPT HAD LONG BEEN PATIENT, WANTING TO PRESERVE ARAB SOLIDARITY AT ANY PRICE. SADAT'S MESSAGE TO LIBYAN RCC WAS NECESSARY TO PUT MATTERS IN RIGHT PERSPECTIVE.

4. ARABIC LANGUAGE PAPERS MAY 28 REVIEW COMMENTS OF BEIRUT DAILIES ON SADAT'S MESSAGE TO LIBYAN RCC. ANWAR AND BAYRAQ ARE BOTH QUOTED AS EMPHASIZING POLITENESS OF SADAT'S MESSAGE AND CARE WHICH PRESIDENT HAS TAKEN TO PROTECT GOE'S FEEBLE TIES WITH TRIPOLI.

5. COMMENT: EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS HAVE TOLD US RECENTLY THAT THEY HAVE NO SPECIFIC "INSTRUCTIONS" ON HOW TO PLAY LIBYAN STORIES. HOWEVER, SINCE SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL STRESSED TO AMBASSADOR MAY 28 THAT ABOVE MENTIONED AMIN ARTICLE WENT TOO FAR AND WAS IN "BAD TASTE", BROAD PRESSURE GUIDANCE MAY NOW BE FORTHCOMING.

6. AMIN'S SPECIFIC CHARGE THAT QADHAAFI IS PLOTTING ASSASSINATIONS IN EGYPT DOES REFLECT CONCERN WE HAVE HEARD FROM EGYPTIANS THAT TRIPOLI IS, IN FACT, SPENDING LARGE SUMS MONEY IN EGYPT AND MAY EVEN BE CONTEMPLATING RANDOM TERRORIST ATTACKS.
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